

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00
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R 111130Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 135
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0181

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLO, SY, JO
SUBJECT: PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC) EXPANSION

1. SOURCE WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAS HAD FREQUENT CONTACT, A MEMBER OF EAST BANK PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY, HAS TOLD US OF APPROACH TO HIM BY UNNAMED PLO-AFFILIATED PALESTINIANS SEEKING HIS CONCURRENCE TO ATTEND EXPANDED PNC MEETING IN CAIRO AS MEMBER ENLARGED PNC.

2. FOLLOWING DETAILS PROVIDED BY SOURCE. HE WAS ASSURED THAT PLO HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT A TRUNCATED STATE IN WEST BANK AND THAT AN "AGREEMENT" HAD ALREADY GONE SO FAR AS TO INCLUDE A DEAL WHERE THERE WOULD BE JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SIMILAR PROJECTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND BETWEEN NEW PALESTINIAN ENTITY AND ISRAEL.

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3. SOURCE SAID HE WAS PERSONELLY OPPOSED TO SUCH PROJECTS, AND AS A PALESTINIAN MODERATE HE CONSIDERED THAT MINIMUM AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR RETURN OF ALL WEST BANK, A PALESTINIAN STATE, AND SOME FORM OF FEDERATION WITH JORDAN. HE SAID THAT SYRIANS, HE WAS TOLD, HAD PROPOSED HIS NAME. HE INSISTED THAT

HE WOULD ONLY ATTEND IF HE WERE ASKED BY PALESTINIANS TO DO SO, AND WOULD ALSO CHECK OUT HIS ATTENDANCE WITH KING, OR KING'S UNCLE, OR JORDAN ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF BIN SHAKER TO ALL OF WHOM HE HAD ACCESS. HE WOULD INSIST ON GAINING RIGHT TO MAKE HIS PERSONAL VIEWS KNOWN AT PNC FROM PLO, AND TELL KING HIS VIEWS ON NECESSARY ELEMENTS OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT (AS ABOVE) AND SEEK KING'S CONCURRENCE IN PRESENTING THEM.

4. OUR INFORMANT ALSO ADDED THAT HE HAD SEEN LIST OF NAMES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR INVITATIONS TO ATTEND PNC IN SYRIA AND JORDAN. EACH OF THEM WAS MODERATE INDIVIDUAL WITH IMPORTANT PERSONAL REPUTATION AMONG PALESTINIANS IN GENERAL. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT A TOTAL OF 80 TO 120 NEW MEMBERS WOULD BE APPROACHED TO ATTEND MEETING IN ADDITION TO REGULAR MEMBERS, AND THAT NEW GROUP WOULD HOLD BALANCE OF POWER IN THE ORGANIZATION. HE SAID NEW PNC WOULD THEN SELECT NEW PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT AHMED SHUKAIRY WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY ACTIVE AMONG PALESTINIANS IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE, AND WAS APPARENTLY TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR HIMSELF A NEW LEADERSHIP ROLE. OUR SOURCE'S SPECULATION WAS THAT SYRIANS HAD CHOSEN THE LIST OF NEW MEMBERS, AND THAT SYRIANS WERE DICTATING TO PLO ALL OF THE MOVES IT HAD TO MAKE IN THE COMING MONTHS IN ORDER TO INCREASE SYRIAN CONTROL OVER THE PLO.

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT VARIOUS PALESTINIANS WHO HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS POTENTIAL LEADERS, SOURCE NOTED
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HIS CONTINUING HATRED FOR ARAFAT, THAT KHALID FAHUM (A DISTANT RELATIVE OF THE SOURCE) WAS A NICE MAN BUT WEAK, AND THAT KHALED AL HASAN IS KNOWN TO BE IN SYRIA'S POCKET. WITHOUT SAYING SO, SOURCE LEFT ME WITH IMPRESSION HE THOUGHT SHUKAIRY MIGHT REALLY MAKE A COMEBACK.

6. THIS IS FIRST INSTANCE WE HAVE VERIFIED OF AN INDIVIDUAL ON EAST BANK BEING APPROACHED TO JOIN AN ENLARGED PNC. SOURCE INDICATED THAT WHILE HE HAD SEEN NAMES ONLY OF PALESTINIANS IN SYRIA AND JORDAN WHO WERE BEING APPROACHED, HE WAS TOLD THAT ACTIVITIES TO ENLARGE THE PNC COVERED WEST BANK, GAZA, EGYPT AND OTHER STATES. HE SAID HE THOUGHT ISRAELIS MIGHT LET SOME WEST BANKERS GO TO MEETING AND THAT THERE WAS STRONG SENTIMENT AMONG MODERATE PALESTINIANS THROUGHOUT THE ARAB WORLD IN FAVOR OF ATTENDANCE OF WEST BANK MAYORS AS THE ONLY REALLY "ELECTED" PALESTINIAN LEADERS. HE ADDED, WITH A TOUCH OF HUMOR, THAT THOSE

GOING WOULD BE THRE UNDER THEIR OWN NAMES, "MARKING
A NEW PHASE" HE SAID, AND WOULD NOT BE AS "ABU SO
AND SO", USING A VERY DEROGATORY PHRASE IN PLACE OF
THE SO AND SO TO INDICATE THE CONTEMPT IN WHICH HE
HELD LEADERS OF THAT ILK.

7. SOURCE PROBED FOR ANY INFORMATION WE HAD ON WHETHER A
DEAL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND PLO FOR POST-PEACE "JOINT PROJECTS" HAD
BEEN WORKED OUT. WE REPLIED WE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT
ANY SUCH DEAL, BUT KNEW SOME ISRAELI DOVES HAD TALKED
ABOUT SUCH POSSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, GIVEN ARAB RELUCTANCE TO
DEAL WITH ISRAELIS DIRECTLY AND WELL KNOWN ISRAELI
RESERVATIONS ABOUT PLO, WE DOUBTED WHETHER THERE
COULD BE MUCH TRUTH TO THE ASSERTION.
PICKERING

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